Luella was still. Then she said in a different tone: "You . . you know my . . father's name!"

"I read his book called *The Temples of Greece* only last year." He walked a little way towards her. Then he said: "Do you swear to me on everything you hold holy that Richard Hanley was your father?"

"I swear on the Bible that it is true," Luella said.

The Duke looked at her searchingly. Then he asked: "Can I really believe that you are not connected in any way with that swine Vecchio?"

"What I told you was . . true. I met him by . . chance and because I am English . . he asked me to . . bring this little boy . . to England." Luella was now facing the Duke. She thought he looked deep into her eyes as if he was doubtful that she was telling him the truth, at the same time wanting to believe her.

Then he said: "Very well, Miss Hanley. You had better come and sit down and explain to me from the very beginning how you got yourself involved in this disgraceful mess."

# *Chapter Four*